

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1 1. A method of applying a plurality of common metrics to  
2 a product lifecycle, said method comprising:  
3 identifying a plurality of product phases that  
4 correspond to the product lifecycle;  
5 selecting one of the common metrics from the plurality  
6 of common metrics;  
7 applying the selected common metric to each of the  
8 plurality of product phases; and  
9 executing each of the plurality of product phases  
10 using the selected common metric.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 generating one or more phase goals to correspond to  
3 each of the plurality of product phases in response to  
4 the applying.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 receiving one or more feedback responses from one or  
3 more feedback sources;  
4 analyzing one of the feedback responses; and  
5 generating each of the common metrics in response to  
6 the analysis.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3 further comprising:  
2 selecting one of the feedback responses;  
3 assigning a weighted priority to correspond to the  
4 selected feedback response; and

5 performing the analyzing using the assigned weighted  
6 priority.

1 5. The method of claim 3 wherein at least one of the  
2 feedback sources is selected from the group consisting  
3 of a customer survey, a help line response, a  
4 technical support response, and a field report.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the  
2 plurality of product phases is selected from the group  
3 consisting of a planning phase, a design phase, a  
4 development phase, a test phase, and a release phase.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the method is performed  
2 using an electronic computing device.

1 8. An information handling system comprising:  
2 one or more processors;  
3 a memory accessible by the processors;  
4 one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by  
5 the processors; and  
6 a common metric handling tool for applying a plurality  
7 of common metrics to a product lifecycle, the common  
8 metric handling tool comprising software code  
9 effective to:

10 identify a plurality of product phases that  
11 correspond to the product lifecycle, the  
12 plurality of product phases included in one  
13 of the nonvolatile storage devices;

14                   select one of the common metrics from the  
15                   plurality of common metrics located in one  
16                   of the nonvolatile storage devices;  
  
17                   apply the selected common metric to each of  
18                   the plurality of product phases;  
  
19                   execute each of the plurality of product  
20                   phases using the selected common metric.

1    9.    The information handling system of claim 8 wherein the  
2           software code is further effective to:  
3           generate one or more phase goals to correspond to each  
4           of the plurality of product phases in response to the  
5           applying.

1    10.   The information handling system of claim 8 wherein the  
2           software code is further effective to:  
3           receive one or more feedback responses from one or  
4           more feedback sources;  
  
5           analyze one of the feedback responses; and  
  
6           generate each of the common metrics in response to the  
7           analysis.

1    11.   The information handling system of claim 10 wherein  
2           the software code is further effective to:  
3           select one of the feedback responses located in one of  
4           the nonvolatile storage devices;  
  
5           assign a weighted priority to correspond to the  
6           selected feedback response; and

7 perform the analyzing using the assigned weighted  
8 priority.

1 12. The information handling system of claim 10 wherein at  
2 least one of the feedback sources is selected from the  
3 group consisting of a customer survey, a help line  
4 response, a technical support response, and a field  
5 report.

1 13. The information handling system of claim 8 wherein at  
2 least one of the plurality of product phases is  
3 selected from the group consisting of a plan phase, a  
4 design phase, a development phase, a test phase, and a  
5 release phase.

1 14. A computer program product stored on a computer  
2 operable media for applying a plurality of common  
3 metrics to a product lifecycle, said computer program  
4 product comprising software code effective to:  
5 identify a plurality of product phases that correspond  
6 to the product lifecycle;  
7 select one of the common metrics from the plurality of  
8 common metrics;  
9 apply the selected common metric to each of the  
10 plurality of product phases; and  
11 execute each of the plurality of product phases using  
12 the selected common metric.

1 15. The computer program product of claim 14 wherein the  
2 software code is further effective to:

3 generate one or more phase goals to correspond to each  
4 of the plurality of product phases in response to the  
5 applying.

1 16. The computer program product of claim 14 wherein the  
2 software code is further effective to:  
3 receive one or more feedback responses from one or  
4 more feedback sources;  
5 analyze one of the feedback responses; and  
6 generate each of the common metrics in response to the  
7 analysis.

1 17. The computer program product of claim 16 wherein the  
2 software code is further effective to:  
3 select one of the feedback responses;  
4 assign a weighted priority to correspond to the  
5 selected feedback response; and  
6 perform the analyzing using the assigned weighted  
7 priority.

1 18. The computer program product of claim 16 wherein at  
2 least one of the feedback sources is selected from the  
3 group consisting of a customer survey, a help line  
4 response, a technical support response, and a field  
5 report.

1 19. The computer program product of claim 16 wherein the  
2 plurality of feedback corresponds to a first product  
3 and wherein the plurality of feedback is applied to a  
4 product lifecycle that corresponds to a second  
5 product.

1 20. The computer program product of claim 14 wherein at  
2 least one of the plurality of product phases is  
3 selected from the group consisting of a planning  
4 phase, a design phase, a development phase, a test  
5 phase, and a release phase.

1 21. A method of applying a plurality of common metrics to  
2 a product lifecycle, said method comprising:  
3 receiving one or more feedback responses from one or  
4 more feedback sources, the feedback responses  
5 corresponding to the product lifecycle;  
6 analyzing one of the feedback responses;  
7 generating each of the common metrics in response to  
8 the analysis;  
9 identifying a plurality of product phases that  
10 correspond to the product lifecycle;  
11 selecting one of the common metrics from the plurality  
12 of common metrics;  
13 applying the selected common metric to each of the  
14 plurality of product phases;  
15 executing each of the plurality of product phases  
16 using the selected common metric.

1 22. A computer implemented method of applying a plurality  
2 of common metrics to a product lifecycle, said method  
3 comprising:  
4 receiving one or more feedback responses from one or  
5 more feedback sources, the feedback responses  
6 corresponding to the product lifecycle;

7 analyzing one of the feedback responses, wherein the  
8 analyzing further includes assigning a weighted  
9 priority to correspond to the selected feedback  
10 response;  
11 generating each of the common metrics in response to  
12 the analysis;  
13 identifying a plurality of product phases that  
14 correspond to the product lifecycle;  
15 selecting one of the common metrics from the plurality  
16 of common metrics;  
17 applying the selected common metric to each of the  
18 plurality of product phases; and  
19 executing each of the plurality of product phases  
20 using the selected common metric.

1 23. An information handling system comprising:  
2 one or more processors;  
3 a memory accessible by the processors;  
4 one or more nonvolatile storage devices accessible by  
5 the processors; and  
6 a common metric handling tool for applying a plurality  
7 of common metrics to a product lifecycle, the common  
8 metric handling tool comprising software code  
9 effective to:  
10 receive one or more feedback responses from  
11 one or more feedback sources, the feedback  
12 responses corresponding to the product  
13 lifecycle;

14 analyze one of the feedback responses,  
15 wherein the analyzing further includes  
16 assigning a weighted priority to correspond  
17 to the selected feedback response;  
18 generate each of the common metrics in  
19 response to the analysis;  
20 identify a plurality of product phases that  
21 correspond to the product lifecycle, the  
22 plurality of product phases included in one  
23 of the nonvolatile storage devices;  
24 select one of the common metrics from the  
25 plurality of common metrics located in one  
26 of the nonvolatile storage devices;  
27 apply the selected common metric to each of  
28 the plurality of product phases located in  
29 one of the nonvolatile storage devices; and  
30 execute each of the plurality of product  
31 phases using the selected common metric.

1 24. A computer program product stored on a computer  
2 operable media for applying a plurality of common  
3 metrics to a product lifecycle, said computer program  
4 product comprising software code effective to:  
5 receive one or more feedback responses from one or  
6 more feedback sources, the feedback responses  
7 corresponding to the product lifecycle;  
8 analyze one of the feedback responses, wherein the  
9 analyzing further includes assigning a weighted



10        priority to correspond to the selected feedback  
11        response;  
12        generate each of the common metrics in response to the  
13        analysis;  
14        identify a plurality of product phases that correspond  
15        to the product lifecycle;  
16        select one of the common metrics from the plurality of  
17        common metrics;  
18        apply the selected common metric to each of the  
19        plurality of product phases; and  
20        execute each of the plurality of product phases using  
21        the selected common metric.